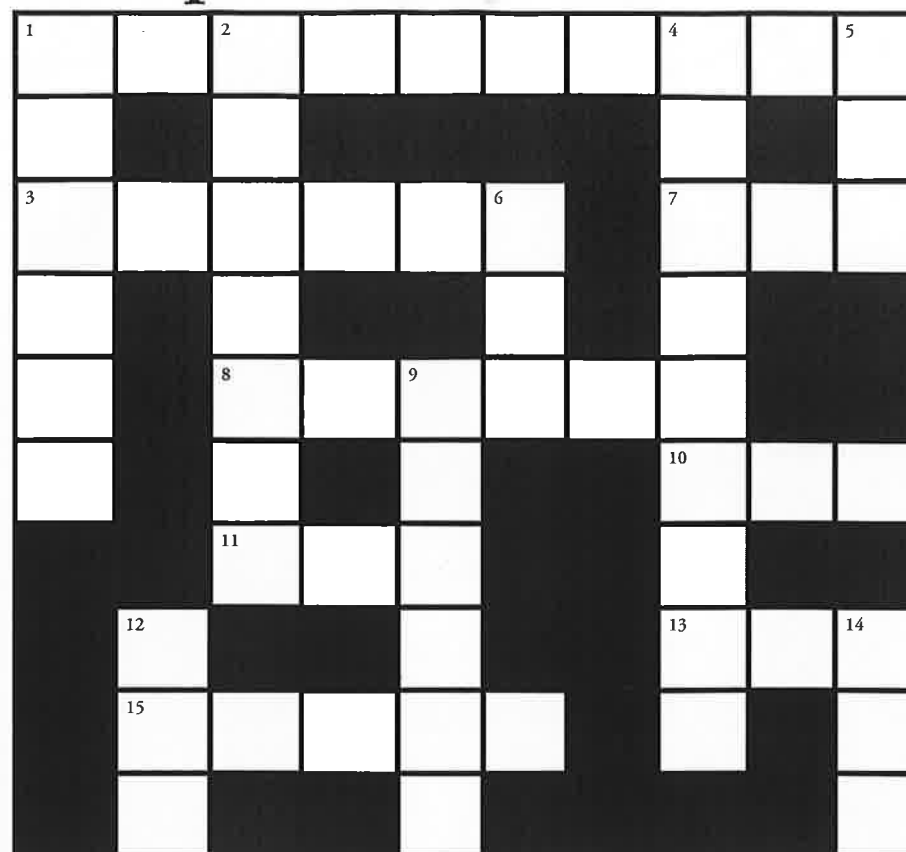


An Operation 8 Crossword



Down

1. Person in charge of racist police op.
2. Place invaded and locked down on Oct. 15th, 2007
4. Fundamental, basic
5. Law they tried and failed to use against arrestees (abbrev.)
6. Homer when he messes up
9. The people _____, will never be defeated
12. What Howard Broad looked like after the TSA charges failed
14. Te Moana

Across

1. Place where they pass all the racist laws
3. "I cried because we were hungry and _____"
7. Basque seperatists / peanut butter
8. Te Mana motuhake _____
10. US agency leading the "War on Terror"
11. 'Tribe' of Aotearoa
13. Legally armed thugs (abbrev.)
15. A hell of a good lawyer

Kia ora,

This newsletter is from www.October15thSolidarity.info We send out irregular updates on the campaign to suport the people arrested in the so-called 'anti-terror' raids in Aotearoa (New Zealand) on 15 October 2007, 19 February and 17 April 2008.

There are Solidarity crews working around the country. If you would like to get involved or start your own solidarity crew, email info@october15th.solidarity.info for more details.

You can make a fi nancial donation to the campaign by direct deposits or automatic payments at any Kiwibank, Account name: October 15 Solidarity, Account Number: 38-9007-0239672- 000. Please specify if the money is for 'legal defence', for 'arrestee support' or for 'campaign work'. Cheques made out to 'October 15 Solidarity' can be posted to October 15 Solidarity, PO Box 9263, Wellington, New Zealand.

If you would like to submit writing, photos, stories, or responses please get in touch!

info@October15thSolidarity.info

www.October15thSolidarity.info

AoTERRORoa: a review

It should be said at the outset that AoTERRORoa is a farce – so it is supposed to be funny. It is not meant to be a serious dramatic reproduction of the events of the raids. The acting and the production of the play were excellent. The students of Toi Whakaari have certainly learned their craft well.

The play is presented as three separate stages, reflecting three different realities: the activist world, the police world and the media world. The audience is divided into three and each experiences a 30 minute reality before moving to a new set and a new reality.

The activist reality focuses on two brothers – one a Tino Rangatiratanga activist, the other a white supremacist. They do not get along. In order to live together, they decide to divide up the flat with a bit of tape, and sign a poorly drafted contract outlining what belongs to whom.

The focus of the play is an elusive character called 'Kowhai' who is meant to be a Tino Rangatiratanga activist. Kowhai is shown on TV talking about non-violent action in support of Māori sovereignty. In the activist reality, Hemi, the central character is much inspired by Kowhai's work. During the course of the activist reality, some guns are delivered to the activist flat, and the young brothers are set-up to commit a political crime by Kowhai. It results in a raid on their flat. During the course of the raid, Kowhai's plan for peace in Aotearoa is revealed – 'together, apartheid' – where he suggests dividing the country in two, the North Island for Māori, the South Island for white people.

In the media reality, we are the audience of 'Buchanan Fodder' a TV show akin to Campbell Live. The central character is an intensely vain and smarmy reporter who lambasts his female staff off-screen while charming his audience on-screen. He interviews the new head of the anti-terror squad on this night's show, while he simultaneously participates in a plot to set-up Kowhai. His journalistic junior gets wind of the set up, but when she takes matters into her own hands to expose it, she is at a loss to understand what the 'truth' actually is.

Finally, in the police reality, we are introduced to the new boss of the anti-terror squad and her team of sycophants and true believers. She is determined to find a terrorist and thereby justify her budget. She is the orchestrator of the set-up of

Kowhai and the two brothers in what will be the police discovery of the first real 'terrorist plot'. When the plot goes to custard, we learn that it is Kowhai who is the head of the anti-terror squad. While it is a CIA agent in her office that is really directing the show.

In terms of the writing, the play does more to obscure the real relations of power than to expose them. The police plot line relies on a CIA-constructed terrorist threat which takes it into the realm of conspiracy theory nonsense. By suggesting the CIA is driving the NZ police, it hides the domestic political motivations for targeting Māori and other marginalised groups in our society as 'terrorists'.

Similarly, the involvement of the media in the execution of a set-up of activists as terrorists also hides the real way in which the media systematically labels and then marginalises entire sectors of society through a range of specific techniques. We don't need the media to carry out set-up of activists when they already control the way in which reality is understood by a great many people.

In the activist reality, the dichotomy created between Tino Rangatiratanga supporters on one hand and white supremacists on the other is also disingenuous and unhelpful for understanding New Zealand society. Aspirations for Tino Rangatiratanga are widely held views in Māoridom while white supremacist views are totally marginal in pakeha politics. It would be far more accurate to juxtapose Tino Rangatiratanga against the racism of the current Labour government, whose contribution to systematic injustice is far more damaging and simultaneously, far more acceptable to middle-class pakeha.

While AoTERRORoa is a farce, its comedy leaves much to be desired. By making jokes about the police's incompetence at carrying out a Māori powhiri, or about the police's attempts to communicate with Pacific people through pretty brochures, the play fails to make clear the undisputable attack these communities are under by police or the implications of a police force who do not understand the culture of the communities they work in.

The play is in its first draft stage, and we can hope that it will be refined to make sharper stab at those who wage the 'war on terrorism' and perhaps tour the country.

Remember the State Terror Raids...

October 15th Solidarity newsletter

7 November 2008

Campaign Update

Issue 8

Fresh charges laid in indictment

On 30 October, the crown laid fresh charges against five people charged as part of the October 15th raids. There is one new charge of participating in an organised criminal group against Tame Iti, Rangi Kemara, Tuhoe Lambert, Emily Bailey and Urs Signer. All 18 people face charges of possession of firearms and restricted weapons under Section 45 of the Arms Act.

This new charge was the most disturbing change to the charges contained in the indictment. The charge of participation in a criminal group (Section 98A of the Crimes Act) is a relatively recent charge introduced in 1997. The charge carries a term of imprisonment of a maximum of 5 years and has several elements that the Crown must prove. First the crown must prove that each person knew it was a criminal group AND that they knowingly or recklessly contributed to the occurrence of criminal activity. A criminal group has a very specific definition in this law: it must have at least 3 people and they must have as part of their objectives either 1. To obtain material benefits from the commission of crimes with a term of imprisonment of 4 years or more OR 2. To commit serious violent offences that are punishable by imprisonment for a term of 10 years or more. The term 'serious violent offences' also has a specific legal meaning under Section 312(I) of the Crimes Act. They include crimes that involve the loss of life or injury of a person or serious damage to property involving the safety of individuals.

This new charge against 5 of the people arrested would seem to be a clear tactic of the State to save face after failing to bring charges under the Terrorism Suppression Act (TSA). The Solicitor-General refused to allow the charge to be brought due to lack of evidence.

As a result, the police cannot use intercepted conversations obtained by bugging peoples' cars and homes. The Detective Sergeant in charge of Operation 8, Aaron Pascoe, would certainly like to be able to use these conversations as he believes that they prove the police's case. However, the conversations are simply radical political discourse, used selectively and sensation-ally to enhance the police's justification for the raids. In no way do those bugged conversations demonstrate any gang of any sort, criminal or terrorist. The conversations remain inadmissible in the new charge of participation in a criminal group. Thus, the crown has no new evidence to back up these new charges.

With regard to the Arms Act charges, the crown has re-instated the charges for November, April and August 'camps' despite the finding of insufficient evidence by Judge Mark Perkins during the month long depositions hearing. The Crown has also returned to 'indicative' charges for all of the accused. At the start of the depositions hearings, defendants were facing up to 10 charges each of possession of guns on one particular date, in other words, that each person had 10 different weapons at one 'camp'. The 'indicative' charges mean that each of the accused now only faces one charge of possession of multiple guns for any one 'camp'. The charges of possession of Molotov cocktails remain for the August and September 'camps'.

The political implications of the new charges are clear: the State is seeking to brand Tino Rangatiratanga and radical political activism as a criminal activity. Tamati Kruger, a trustee for Te Kotahi ā Tuhoe, says the charges make a mockery of talks Tuhoe leaders have been having with police about last October's arrests and lock-down of the Rūātoki valley.

(continued inside page)

Remembering Rūātoki: *the October 15th commemoration*

We sat by the side of the road in Taneatua on Wednesday, October 15th 2008. Due to our bail conditions we were not allowed beyond Reid Road into Rūātoki. The three of us desperately wanted to go to the commemoration happening at Rewarewa Marae that night. Instead, we got fish and chips and sat on the steps outside the local credit union. We got a good laugh looking at the sign in the window of the Credit Union which says 'No balaclavas, no helmets, no singlets..etc.' We sat there for about 3 hours.

Our friends travelled to the Marae and were welcomed on in at the powhiri. The evening's highlight was the community performance of 'I AM' which was staged in a natural amphitheatre with a bush backdrop. There were some 40 cast and crew who dedicated

their time to making this production come to life.

Speaker Jeff Sluka from Massey University was a keynote speaker that night. His work is focused on government 'hearts and minds' campaigns that are waged during military occupations. His field work was based in Northern Ireland. He identifies some of the factors which lead to military failure despite overwhelming force. These include arbitrary detention and checkpoints, and the targeting of civilians. Sluka's primary focus now is the so-called 'war on terrorism' and why it is destined to fail despite the enormous power of the US military. He has found many of the same factors in Iraq and Afghanistan as he had found in Northern Ireland in the 1970s and 1980s.

The commemorations were interrupted

by court on Friday, October 17th. On this day, all defendants were required to be in Auckland District Court for the committal (when the judge decides who will stand trial). All of the defendants except Rongomai Bailey were committed to trial.

As part of the conditions of bail, we asked for and received permission to go the Rūātoki for the remainder of the commemorations.

On Saturday morning, 18 October, defendants, friends and family were welcomed onto Rewarewa Marae by Tame Iti and tangata whenua. It was an emotional journey for me as I reflected on where I had been sitting exactly one year prior, and all the things we have been through this year. It has been a hard year.

It was hard to hear about the experiences of so many other people who had

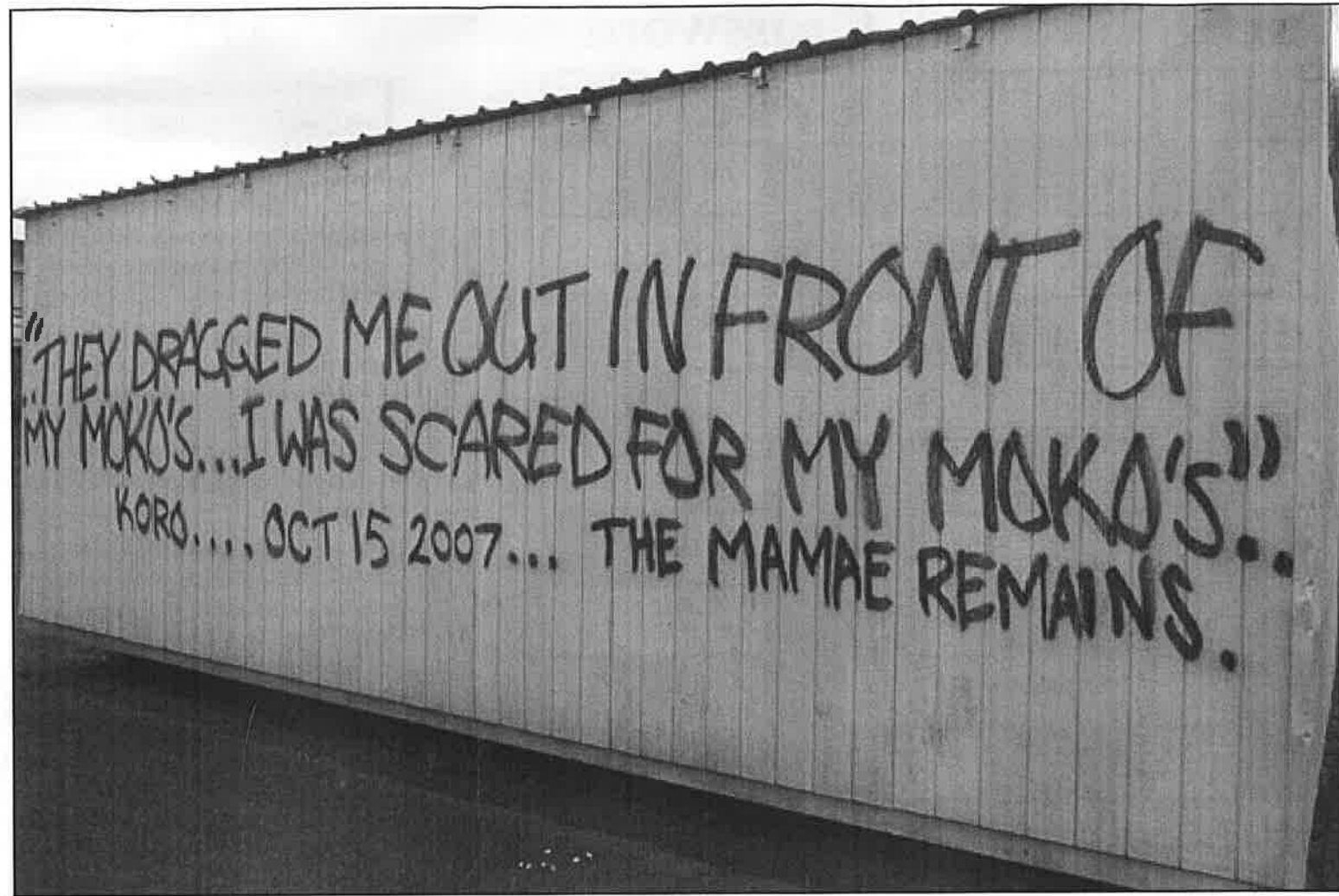
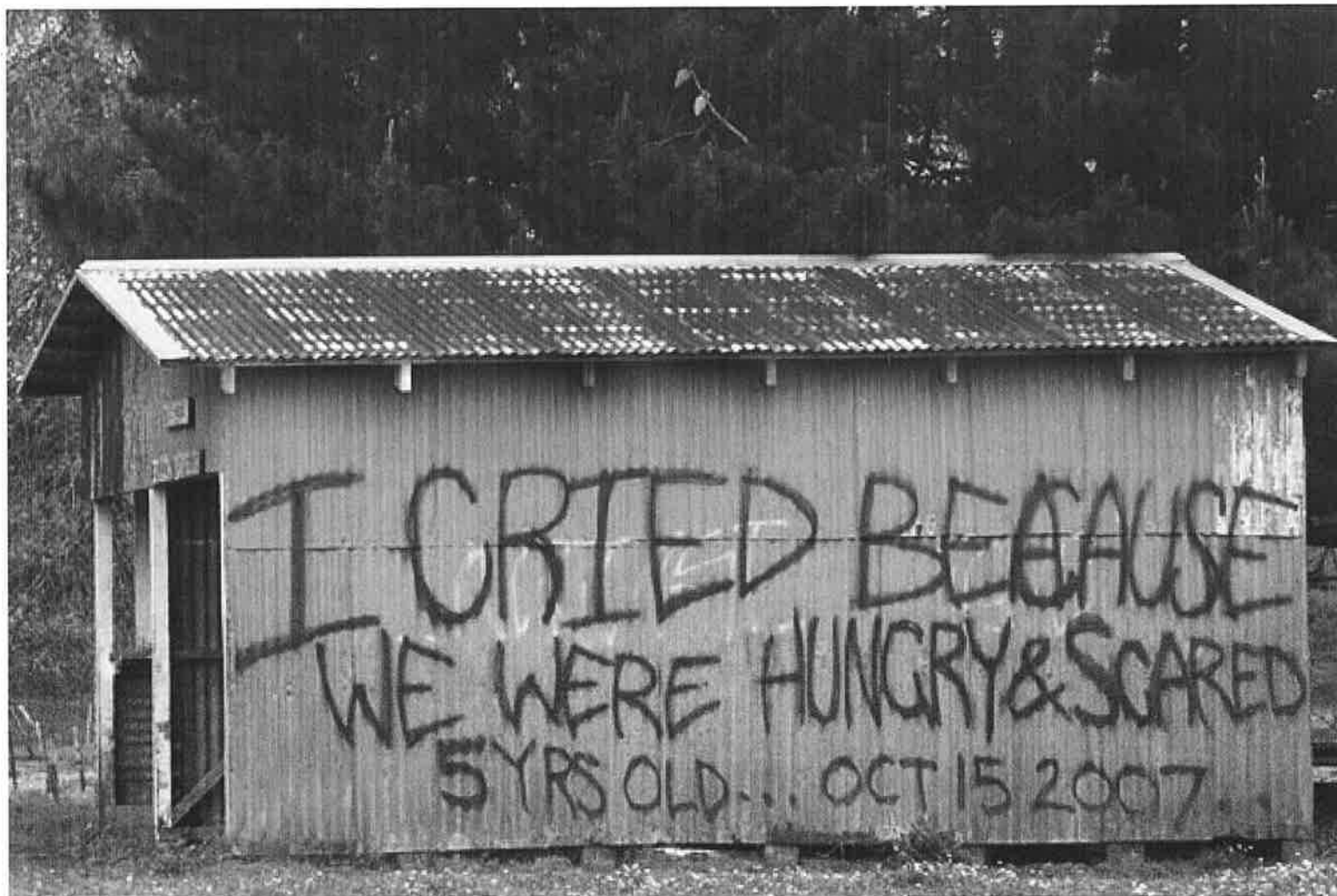


Photo taken on 19 October 2008 at Reid Road, Taneatua



been terrorised by the black-balaclava clad police who invaded Rūātoki on 15 October 2007. As we walked around the house of one defendant, we heard the story of a house of 10 children left alone while the only adults in the house were arrested. We met with two other children who had been locked in a shed for 6 hours, with no food or water.

As we enter the next stage, we know that the struggle has really only just begun. New charges against 5 of the defendants is a tactic to divide and conquer our collective spirit. We must stand strong in the face of this latest attack and work to educate people about the assault on Tūhoe and the assault on freedom and dissent.

Photo taken on 19 October 2008 at Reid Road, Taneatua

Fresh charges laid in indictment

(continued from front page)

Tamati Kruger continued saying "Those talks now I think have become a lot more difficult in light really of what we see as the trawling through laws to find something that may save the police from utter disgrace over this whole painful incident". Global Peace and Justice Auckland spokesperson John Minto noted, "Were those charged not political activists the police would have issued warnings for technical breaches of firearms laws rather than attempt the Keystone Cops prosecutions." The voice of the Worker's Party national organiser and list candidate Tim Bowron echoed this same sentiment noting, "Having failed to make the terrorism charges stick, the NZ Police and Crown Prosecution are now trying to smear these Tūhoe and social justice activists as nothing more than a criminal gang".

The crown has applied to move all of the proceedings to the Auckland High Court. In the time between now and a trial date, there will be many applica-

tions filed on behalf of the accused relating to specific charges and evidence. Once those matters are resolved, the court will set a date for a trial which may last for up to a year.

The accused and their families really need help and support. Many people will need accommodation, transport and food throughout the trial. Any assistance that can be given is greatly appreciated. Please visit the website for more details

www.October15thSolidarity.info

